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[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.59 and Add.1)*]

70/298. Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1] which provides a comprehensive overview of interaction between the United Nations and the global parliamentary community and attests to the broad and substantive cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an observer in the General Assembly and the world organization of national parliaments, over the past two years,

Taking note of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and circulated in the General Assembly and the many activities undertaken by the organization in support of the United Nations,

Noting the outcomes of the World Conferences of Speakers of Parliament held in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015, which affirm the commitment of national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to support the work of the United Nations and continue efforts to bridge the democracy gap in international relations,

Taking into consideration the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union of 1996,[2] which laid the foundation for cooperation between the two organizations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] as well as the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4] in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in all fields of the work of the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolution 57/32 of 19 November 2002, in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union was invited to participate in the work of the General

[1] A/70/917.
[2] A/51/402, annex.
[3] Resolution 55/2.
[4] Resolution 60/1.

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Assembly in the capacity of observer, as well as resolutions 57/47 of 21 November 2002, 59/19 of 8 November 2004, 61/6 of 20 October 2006 and 63/24 of 18 November 2008,

Recalling and further endorsing its resolutions 65/123 of 13 December 2010, 66/261 of 29 May 2012 and 68/272 of 19 May 2014, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, decided to pursue a more systematic engagement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in organizing and integrating a parliamentary component of and contribution to major United Nations deliberative processes and the review of international commitments,

Welcoming the annual parliamentary hearings at the United Nations, as well as other specialized parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the United Nations to correspond to major United Nations conferences and events such as the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the recent special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem and the high-level meeting of the Assembly on HIV/AIDS,

Welcoming also the convening of a parliamentary parallel event by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and by the United Nations at the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya from 27 to 29 May 2016,

Recognizing in particular the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in mobilizing parliamentary action towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[5] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[6] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[7] and in support of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[8]

Recognizing the growing role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs in providing a platform for regular interaction between parliamentarians and United Nations officials, including on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reviewing implementation of international commitments, facilitating closer ties between United Nations country teams and national parliaments and helping to shape parliamentary input to major United Nations processes,

Recognizing also the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the areas of gender equality, the empowerment of women and combating violence against women, and the close cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

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[5] Resolution 70/1.

[6] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[7] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[8] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Taking note of the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and relevant bodies of the United Nations system to enhance cooperation in support of the implementation of international obligations in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament,

Taking note also of the work carried out upon request by agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, in support of national parliaments around the world,

Acknowledging the role and responsibility of national parliaments in regard to national plans and strategies, as well as in ensuring greater transparency and accountability at both national and global levels,

1. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to pursue a more systematic engagement with the United Nations;

2. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to work closely in various fields, in particular peace and security, economic and social development, climate change, international law, human rights and gender issues, democracy and good governance, bearing in mind the significant benefits of cooperation between the two organizations, to which the report of the Secretary-General attests;[1]

3. *Also encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen their cooperation in the fields of dialogue among civilizations, culture, education, information and communications technologies, disaster risk reduction and financing for development;

4. *Encourages* the continued active involvement of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in mobilizing parliamentary action in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and emphasizes the importance of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union continuing to work closely together with a view to promoting the enhanced contribution of parliaments at the national level and the Inter-Parliamentary Union at the global level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[5]

5. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen cooperation by engaging parliamentarians in efforts to maintain support for the implementation of relevant United Nations agreements;

6. *Takes note* of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, held at United Nations Headquarters from 31 August to 2 September 2015, which, inter alia, provided a high-level parliamentary contribution to the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda;

7. *Welcomes* the practice of including legislators as members of national delegations to major United Nations meetings and events, as appropriate, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the youth forum of the Economic and Social Council, and invites Member States to continue this practice in a more regular and systematic manner;

8. *Invites* Member States to further consider ways to work regularly with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in facilitating a parliamentary component to major United Nations conferences and in more closely linking the annual parliamentary hearing at the United Nations to the main United Nations processes, so as to help to inform such deliberations from a parliamentary perspective;

9. *Encourages* Member States to consider applying the practice of the joint United Nations-Inter-Parliamentary Union parliamentary hearing to other parliamentary meetings convened in conjunction with major United Nations conferences and processes, such as the parliamentary meeting organized on the occasion of the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, with a view to including the outcome of these parliamentary meetings as a formal contribution to the respective United Nations processes;

10. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the work of the Human Rights Council, notably by providing a more robust parliamentary contribution to the universal periodic review, and to the work of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies along the lines of the cooperation developed in recent years between the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and national parliaments whose countries are under review;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system to work closely with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and national parliaments in accordance with their respective mandates and, upon request, in such areas as gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in conflict prevention and peace processes, institutional gender mainstreaming, support to parliaments in promoting gender-sensitive legislation, increasing the representation of women in parliaments, combating violence against women and implementing relevant United Nations resolutions;

12. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, through the participation of parliamentarians, in convening a regular parliamentary side event on the work of parliaments to institutionalize the Sustainable Development Goals;

13. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to enhance their cooperation in supporting Governments in facilitating the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to develop closer cooperation with parliaments at the national level, including in terms of strengthening parliamentary capacities, reinforcing the rule of law and helping to align national legislation with international commitments;

15. *Takes note* of the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments, pioneered by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Development Programme with a view to further strengthening the capacities of parliaments to perform their functions;

16. *Calls upon* United Nations country teams to develop, within their mandates and at the request of national authorities, a more structured and integrated manner of working with national parliaments, through appropriate mechanisms, inter alia, by involving parliaments in consultations on national development strategies and on development aid effectiveness, where applicable;

17. *Encourages* the United Nations system to help to facilitate greater South-South and triangular cooperation between parliaments and parliamentarians, within existing resources, in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

18. *Encourages* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to avail themselves more systematically of the unique expertise of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its member parliaments in strengthening parliamentary institutions, particularly in countries emerging from conflict and/or in transition to democracy;

19. *Calls for* a regular annual exchange between the senior leadership of the United Nations and that of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to building greater coherence in the work of the two organizations, enhancing coordination in the cooperation between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, maximizing parliamentary support for the United Nations and helping to forge a strategic partnership between the two organizations;

20. *Welcomes* the new cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which reflects progress and developments over past years and places the institutional relationship between the two organizations on a stronger footing;

21. *Decides*, in recognition of the significant cooperation and enhanced engagement among United Nations entities and the global parliamentary community in implementing their shared global objectives, to strengthen the modalities of this cooperation and to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report under this item.

112th plenary meeting
25 July 2016